

# Legislative Report

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Volume XIV

## *A message from Legislator Siela A. Bynoe*

Dear Neighbor:

For breast cancer survivors in Nassau County and across our nation, October is often a meditative time. I know that is the case for my family as I reflect upon my journey as a 19-year breast cancer survivor.

My heart is filled with gratitude for my recovery, the expert medical care that made it possible, and the support and prayers from my friends and loved ones that replenished my spirit in times of adversity. I am also truly hopeful that my experiences can serve as motivation for anybody who might need to get up to date on their routine tests. We all know that early detection is crucial for positive outcomes, and there's no better time than the present to get examined.

My office is partnering with NuHealth to bring the Nassau University Medical Center breast cancer screening van to the **Lakeview Public Library** (1120 Woodfield Road, Rockville Centre) on Thursday, Nov. 17. From 8:15 to noon, women over age 40 who have not been screened in more than a year can receive services including a breast exam from a nurse, a mammography, and self-examination instructions. Appointments are free for uninsured women based on eligibility guidelines. Please contact my office at 516-571-6202 to make an appointment while supplies last.

As we continue our focus on the well-being of Second District residents, we are simultaneously hard at work addressing other crucial issues that are impacting your life. Read this newsletter to learn more about:

- Legislative initiatives regarding **maternal mortality and morbidity, cyber security** and **Alzheimer's disease** (page 2);
- Initiatives delivering **addiction prevention and recovery resources** (page 2);
- Our work with the Nassau IDA to **help businesses 'go green'** (page 2);
- Updates on Second Legislative District **infrastructure projects** (page 3); and
- A look back at our **back-to-school events** (page 4).

It remains my distinct honor and privilege to serve as your representative, and I wish you and your family continued good health in the days ahead. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with your questions, concerns and observations.

Sincerely,



Siela A. Bynoe



Nassau County Legislator

**Siela A. Bynoe**

The Second Legislative District is comprised of Hempstead, Uniondale, Hicksville, Lakeview, New Cassel, Westbury, Rockville Centre and West Hempstead.

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## Addressing the Challenges Facing Nassau County Residents



Through a series of filed legislative proposals, Legislator Bynoe is working to address pivotal quality of life and public safety issues that Nassau County residents face on a daily basis:

**Protecting the Health of Mothers:** The United States has the highest maternal mortality and morbidity rates in the developed world - an unconscionable crisis that is in large part fueled by pervasive disparities in healthcare access that overwhelmingly impact communities of color.

To confront this growing public health crisis, Legislator Bynoe introduced a proposal that would establish the Nassau County Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force - a consortium of County department heads, medical experts and maternal health advocates that would be tasked with devising strategies for saving lives, preventing dangerous medical complications, and addressing institutional healthcare disparities.

A Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force would optimally dovetail with the important work of the County Administration's newly created Office of Health Equity and Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - entities that the administration is funding with hundreds of thousands of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant dollars.

### Tax Incentives for 'Going Green'

During the summer of 2021, the Nassau County Industrial Development Agency acted upon Legislator Bynoe's policy initiative that sought to encourage local business and industrial entities to "go green" by offering them sales tax incentives for investments in equipment that reduces pollution and conserves energy and water. The inaugural project to be considered for such a benefit was a solar panel installation at Grumman Studios in Bethpage, which *Newsday* reports will produce 3 megawatts of clean solar energy for use by businesses and homes across Long Island upon completion.

### Safeguarding our Cyber Security

Cognizant of the growing threat of cyberattacks against municipalities, Legislator Bynoe has proposed the creation of a division within Nassau County's Department of Information Technology that would solely focus upon safeguarding and enhancing our cybersecurity and cyber-resiliency. The new division would also be responsible for identifying all tangible resources and overseeing contractors that are retained to support this crucial mission. Earlier this year, in response to a breach of County-held data that exposed the personal data of 209 Department of Assessment employees, Legislator Bynoe filed a proposal that would require the Department of Consumer Affairs to give any future victims resources that they can use to protect their credit and alert the major credit bureaus of the exposure.

### Aiding Residents with Alzheimer's Disease Through the Chesnel Veillard Program

To better protect the health and safety of Nassau County residents who are afflicted with Alzheimer's disease, dementia and other similar cognitive disabilities, Legislator Bynoe filed a proposal that would provide income-eligible residents with no-cost access to Project Lifesaver - a search and rescue program utilized internationally by public safety agencies to safely return cognitively impaired individuals who have wandered away from their caregivers.

The initiative is named for Chesnel Veillard, a New Cassel resident who suffered from dementia. He was tragically killed in November 2021 after wandering from his home and onto the railroad tracks, where he was struck by a train. During the year, Legislator Bynoe's office partnered with the Long Island Alzheimer's and Dementia Center to host "Sip & Talk" webinars about Alzheimer's disease and dementia, challenges faced by caregivers, and mental health.

### Working Together to Prevent Overdoses and Create Opportunities for Recovery

In response to reports of opioid drug overdoses, Legislator Bynoe worked collaboratively with Central Nassau Guidance and Counseling to offer overdose prevention training, distribute Narcan kits, and provide introductory supportive services and resources to the residents of New Cassel's Prospect Avenue and Hempstead Village's Terrace Avenue. Since late August, CNGC has reached dozens of individuals and provided lifesaving resources to community members through this partnership.

Efforts to prevent overdose deaths are a crucial part of Nassau County's multi-pronged strategy for promoting long-term, sustainable recovery. In accordance with this mission, Legislator Bynoe and CNGC will continue working collaboratively to deploy the Mobile Recovery Unit, provide Narcan training to more residents, and raise awareness about the resources that are available.





Legislator Bynoe's advocacy for crucial capital improvements continues to yield districtwide results, and her work has netted tens of millions of dollars in new commitments in the County's proposed 2023 plan.

After Legislator Bynoe alerted the County to raised manhole covers that were creating a traffic safety hazard for motorists on **Woodfield Road in Lakeview**, the Department of Public Works recently completed repairs to level the roadway. Nassau's capital plan previously had \$1 million for a Woodfield Road streetscape and traffic safety project, for which design stage funding has been allocated. New funding in the proposed 2023 plan brings the total for the Woodfield Road project to \$6.232 million through 2025.

After Legislator Bynoe previously secured a total of \$6 million in capital plan authorization to address traffic safety issues on **Franklin and Washington Avenues in Hempstead Village**, a Vision Long Island report thereafter indicated that "areas of... the Village of Hempstead are hampered by issues such as busy intersections without sidewalks or crosswalks, wide roadways seemingly designed for speed, and a lack of pedestrian walk signals or medians." To address these issues, Legislator Bynoe secured in the proposed 2023 capital plan an additional \$3.831 million and \$8.661 million respectively for **Franklin and Washington Avenues**, increasing the total County commitment to those two roadways to nearly \$18.5 million through 2026.



To furthermore ensure that two of the most pressing problem areas identified by Vision Long Island's report are addressed as expeditiously as possible, Legislator Bynoe has secured the inclusion of more than \$16.2 million for **Peninsula Boulevard** and nearly \$6.5 million for **Clinton Road in Hempstead** in the proposed 2023 capital plan.

### Building a Better Future For the Second Legislative District

Legislator Bynoe has met with Village of Westbury officials to review initial drawings for major County-funded streetscapes and traffic safety projects for **Union Avenue between the railroad and Brush Hollow Road**, and **Maple Avenue from Union Avenue to Post Avenue**. Through those projects, Legislator Bynoe has secured a County commitment of up to \$10.5 million in support of Westbury's ongoing downtown revitalization. Funds for the projects are being delivered to the Village through an intermunicipal agreement.



As part of her 2023 Capital Plan priorities, Legislator Bynoe has secured the inclusion of nearly \$8 million for traffic safety improvements on **Brush Hollow Road in Westbury** and \$500,000 for the **Tanglewood Preserve in Rockville Centre**.

Recent Community Revitalization Project (CRP) grants yielded the following community benefits for Second Legislative District residents:

- \$357,876 for license plate readers (**Incorporated Village of Hempstead**, secured in partnership with Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams)
- \$49,706 for seven portable Motorola APX 8000XE radios and two lifesaving rope kits (**Hempstead Fire Department**)

### Showtime at the Westbury Arts Center!

Legislator Bynoe recently secured a \$15,000 grant for the Westbury Arts Center through the County's Hotel-Motel Occupancy Tax fund. The grant will help the not-for-profit arts organization support programming that includes regularly scheduled art exhibits, their summer concert series, presentations of award-winning short films, and an arts festival held on Westbury Village's Schenck Avenue.





Nassau County Legislator

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### Ring in an Exciting New School Year!

To help young students begin the 2022-23 school year on the right foot, Legislator Bynoe joined forces with key community partners to host her annual back-to-school events at the Tanglewood Preserve in Rockville Centre on Sunday, Aug. 14 and Martin 'Bunky' Reid Park in Westbury on Saturday, Aug. 20. Thank you to the Center for Science, Teaching and Learning, Bethpage Federal Credit Union, North Hempstead Councilman Robert Troiano, the Nassau County Police Benevolent Association, Moms Who Care, the Lakeview Branch of the NAACP, St. Paul A.M.E. Church, the Iota Theta Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and all of the wonderful community partners and volunteers whose support made these events such a great success!



*Legislator Bynoe would love to hear your comments. Please call her at (516) 571-6202 or email [sbynoe@nassaucountyny.gov](mailto:sbynoe@nassaucountyny.gov). For the latest news, you can also follow the Legislator on Facebook.*